Looking ahead to Christmas — Give a gift you make yourself

Some of the nicest gifts you can give are those you've made yourself. They have a special way of showing you really care.

The recipes below are for interesting holiday treats that you can make before the festivities begin. Attractively wrapped they will make most welcome gifts, or perhaps you'll want to show them off at home, for guests and your loving family.

Rum or Bourbon Balls

Make these a few weeks before giving, so they have a chance to ripen.

1 cup pecans, almonds or walnuts, chopped fine
1 cup vanilla wafer crumbs
2 tablespoons Dutch cocoa
1 cup powdered sugar
1½ tablespoons white karo syrup
¼ cup rum or bourbon

Mix all ingredients together. Using about 1 rounded teaspoon of the mixture, form small balls. Roll in extra powdered sugar and store in tightly covered container, making sure they are not crowded together. That's it! For a change, try chocolate wafers instead of the vanilla, but leave cocoa out of recipe if you do.

Leckerli

½ cup honey
1 cup sugar
½ cup chopped candied lemon and orange peel
½ tsp. nutmeg
1½ tsp. cloves
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tsp. baking soda
1 cup unblanched almonds, sliced thin
Grated rind of ½ lemon
2¾ cups sifted flour

Heat honey and ½ cup sugar to boiling. Remove from heat and add peel, spices and baking soda dissolved in 2 tablespoons cold water. Add remaining ingredients and knead until well blended. Roll dough to ½ inch thickness. Put on greased waxed paper, on cookie sheet and bake in moderate oven, 325°, for about 25 minutes. Turn out on wire rack and remove paper immediately. Turn, right side up. Cook remaining ½ cup sugar and ¼ cup water until mixture spins a thread. Spread on leckerli and cut in diamond shapes. Store in airtight container for at least a week before giving or using.

Nut Loaf Sensation

¾ cup sugar
¾ cup sifted all-purpose flour
½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
2 packages pitted dates — about 1 lb.
1 cup well-drained maraschino cherries
3 cups shelled Brazil nuts — 2 lb. unshelled, or 1 lb. shelled
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla

3°. Place first 4 ingredients in sifter. In large bowl put nuts, dates and cherries and sift flour mixture over them. Mix with hands till fruits and nuts are well coated. Beat eggs till foamy, add vanilla, stir into nut mix until well mixed. Spread evenly in pan, bake until done. Cool in pan on wire rack for 15 minutes. Remove from pan; peel paper off; cool on rack. Wrap in aluminum foil and store in refrigerator. Will keep for 5 or 6 weeks.

Happy holiday nibbling to all!

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN

Start heating oven. Grease, then line with waxed paper, a loaf pan measuring 9" x 5" x

Told in Rhyme

The story of the Nativity and its meaning for mankind is a favored poetic theme, as is the holiday cheer of hearth and home.

Poets as diverse as William Shakespeare, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Greenleaf Whittier and T. S. Eliot have made their contributions.

Numerous carols first were poems—witness Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day":

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat,
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep.'"

Probably the overwhelming winner among widely-known secular Christmas poems is Clement Clark Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

The poem, written for his own children in 1822, is popularly called, "'Twas the Night before Christmas."

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS

Tender loving care for thriving poinsettas

Do you know the origin of the lovely plant we have come to identify with Christmas? These colorful plants were first introduced to America in 1825, by Joel Poinsett, then serving as our Ambassador to Mexico, who brought some 16 plants back to his South Carolina greenhouse. He gave them to friends and botanists with greenhouses who nurtured them carefully.

Poinsettias moved out of doors in the early 1900's when a Swiss horticulturist, Albert Ecke, started to raise them in California for local holiday selling. Now we have come to enjoy poinsettias, not only at the Christmas holiday, but all the year round as well. The most popular is the vivid red, but there are white, pink and marbled flowers as handsome and radiant.

Poinsettias need specific care if they are to flourish, but that care is not really complicated. They are happiest kept at room temperature, near a window, in full daylight, but out of drafts. Water when the top soil feels dry to your touch, keeping the soil moist but not wet.

If you decide to move your poinsettis outdoors for the summer, it will need cutting back to help it retain its shape. To encourage a shorter, fuller plant cut it back between the middle of July and the beginning of August, and repot in a pot one or two sizes larger than the original, and bring indoors again about Labor Day.

Poinsettias are photo-period sensitive plants that flower in response to the length of the day. Ten hours of daylight and fourteen hours of darkness will start flowers on their way, but the least glimmer of light during the dark hours will abort any flowering.

From about October 1 to mid-December, the plant should be in complete darkness from sunset to sunup. It can be put into a closet, in a room that remains dark through those hours, or under a table that is skirted to the floor. If you have a large enough carton available up-end it over the poinsettia to keep light out. Unless the plant is kept in the dark it will not flower.

The colorful bracts that develop from this period will be ample reward for your tender loving care, and will add much excitement to your holiday decor.

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CHRISTMAS EVE 9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

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Merry Christmas
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Merry Christmas
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JAN. 25 - 28
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(804) 946-2365

a very merry Christmas
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Triangle Shopping Center, Appomattox, Va.

Greetings
May the joys of this Christmas season rekindle cherished memories, and fill your heart with great happiness.
Lloyd, Buck + Pat Hudson

O, Holy Night
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Joy to the World
As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we know in our hearts the holy joy and wonder of the Wise Men long ago..
R · E · PANKEY
PHOTOGRAPHER
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Best Wishes for Christmas
To you . . . the family, too! We wish the merriest and brightest.
Jamerson Insurance Agency
Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Bob) Jamerson Appomattox, Va

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A gift certificate from Franklin's provides a gracious way of wishing . . . A Merry Christmas to any Gentlemen on your list and solves the problem of choice & size.
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GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

I wish to express sincere appreciation to each of you who read **Good News For Homemakers** and use the **Recipe of the Week**. Your words of encouragement make my work most enjoyable.

The following is a favorite reading that I wish to share with you for this special time of year.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

1. Thou shall not leave "Christ" out of Christmas, making it Xmas. To most minds "X" stands not for Christ, but for the algebraic unknown.

2. Thou shalt not value thy gifts by their cost, for many shall signify love that is more blessed and beautiful than silver and gold.

3. Thou shalt give thyself with thy gifts. Thy love, thy personality, and thy service shall increase the value of thy gifts an hundredfold and he that receiveth it shall treasure it forever.

4. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus take the place of Christ, lest Christmas become a fairy tale rather than a sublime reality in the spiritual realm.

5. Thou shalt not burden thy servant. The shop girl, the mail carrier, and the merchant should have thy consideration.

6. Thou shalt not neglect the church. Its Christmas services are planned to help spiritualize the Christmas season for thee, the child and thy household.

Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Let thy bountiful blessings be shared with the many who will go hungry and cold unless thou art generous at Christmas.

8. Thou shalt be as a little child. Christmas is the day of the Christ Child; not until thou hast become in spirit as a little child art thou ready to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

9. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Verily most of us spend much time and money getting gifts ready but few seconds in preparing our souls.

10. Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Let thy Christmas list have Christ as the top and thy heart as the gift. In so doing thou are as the Wise Men of Old and verily thou shalt find thyself born again on Christmas Day.

May your Christmas be a joyous time of sharing with your family and friends.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Pecan Chocolate Delight

8 oz. cream cheese
1 lg. carton whipped topping
3 pkg. instant chocolate pudding
½ to ¾ cup pecans

Step 1 - Mix 1 cup flour, 1 stick melted margarine, ½ cup nuts and 2 tablespoons sugar. Mix and spread on bottom of a 9" x 13" pan. Bake in a 350 degree F. oven until golden brown (10 - 15 minutes.). Cool.

Step 2 - Mix 1 cup confectioners sugar, 1 cup whipped topping, and 8 oz. cream cheese. Spread on top of cooled crust.

Step 3 - Mix 3 pkgs of instant chocolate pudding with 4 cups milk. Beat until thick. Spread on top of second layer.

Step 4 - Top chocolate mixture with remaining whipped topping and sprinkle with pecans.

Note: This dessert keeps well in the refrigerator up to 5 days but **cannot be frozen.**

VIRGINIA TO INAUGURATE 4-H HORSE BOWL PROGRAM

BLACKSBURG — A new learning and fun program will be available to the 10,000 Virginia 4-H project members beginning in 1977. The program will be a horse "bowl" program similar to the student quiz shows now conducted on television.

The horse bowl will be a question and answer program about horses for horse project members, Arden N. Huff, Extension animal scientist at Va. Tech, announced.

The activity's objectives are to stimulate learning and reward youth for the knowlege they have gained about horses. The program is open to all 4-H horse project members, including members enrolled in the "Horses Are Fun" project. It does not require the use of horses, Huff said.

Thousands of youths will study for the program under the direction of volunteer leaders and Extension agents. Ten suggested reference books will be used for questions and emphasis will be on a serious reading and study program.

Study topics will include evaluation, anatomy, physiology, genetics, breeds, psychology, nutrition, management, showing equipment and health care.

Local Extension offices may each select one junior and one senior team of five members for six district contests. The six senior teams which will compete in the state contest at State 4-H Club Congress on the Tech campus in June. The winning state team will enter the national finals at Harrisburg, Pa.

HERO QUEEN

Mamie Goin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis H. Goin is the HERO Queen for ACHS, she participated in the FHA-HERO Federation contest and won for The HERO Club with a penny a vote. They money from the top participant was put into the federation dues and the money made from the other girls is put into the club treasury. We would all like to thank Mamie for participating and congratulate her for winning.

OUTSTANDING SALES

Estelle Daniels, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Daniel, was presented at our IIUSIO Club this morning with a $5.00 gift certificate from Carole's Fashions. Estelle earned this honor by selling the most Christmas cards for our club.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
It is our warmest wish that your holiday be filled with peace of mind, good health, and much joy.
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RT. 460 - ½ Way Between
Appomattox & Pamplin, Va.

Holiday GREETINGS
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SUPER DOLLAR
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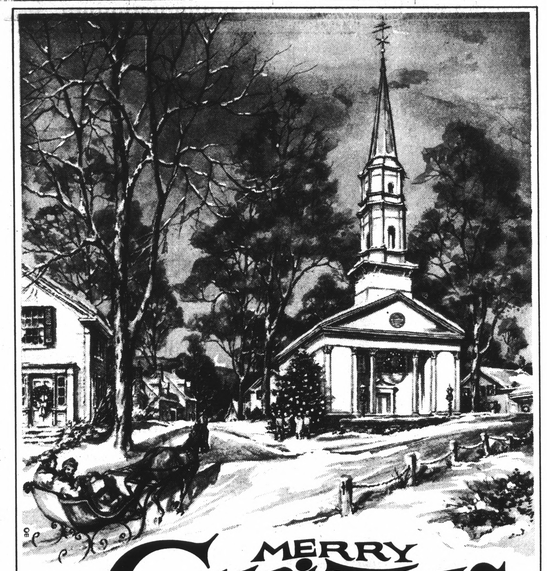
MERRY CHRISTMAS
In this season of happy thoughts and warm hearts, we extend a special "Thank you" to all our good friends and patrons for your confidence, loyalty and support . . . a Merry Christmas to all!
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